



State Representative Dave Quall

40th District

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Education (Chair)

Economic Development, Agriculture
& Trade

A Report to the 40th District

Working for the Community

My role as a legislator is to be a voice and resource for you in state government. This year I worked on issues brought to my attention by citizens, organizations and small businesses in our community. I'm pleased to report that I was able to get results.

I sponsored a study to determine if a skills center is appropriate for our region. I have toured **skills centers** around the state and have seen the benefits of the vocational and technical opportunities they provide to local high school students. The ability to earn high school and college credit while learning skills for industry-level certification in high demand fields will give parents and students more options for the future.

I helped secure funds for **community development projects** that define and make our community unique. Local projects that will benefit include the Jasper Gates Statue, McIntyre Hall, Mount Baker Theater, Northwest Youth Services and Skagit Riverwalk South Gateway.

A local boat builder, **Nordic Tug of Burlington**, contacted me to facilitate a meeting with local boat builders and the State Department of Labor and Industries. The state agency wanted to reclassify Nordic Tug and other small boat builders from kayaks to large yachts, as shipbuilders, even though they are classified by federal agencies as boat builders. The group met in my office in Olympia and worked out an agreement which resulted in a fair decision that avoided the additional cost-prohibitive regulations related to shipbuilding. This is an example of what can be accomplished by bringing a state agency and an aggrieved small business together. My goal is to make state agencies work better to serve you.



Rep. Dave Quall visits with Skagit County Historian Dick Fallis (L.) and Anacortes sculptor Tracy Powell, who will complete work on the Jasper Gates Statue this fall.

Representative Dave Quall

A Report to the 40th District



Education

Our Paramount Duty

My focus as Chair of the House Education Committee is to ensure that every student has the advantage of a solid education.

Our goal is to prepare students for a fast-changing, high-tech, competitive workforce that demands higher levels of skill and knowledge than ever before. As legislators, we must guide the development of an education system in which every student graduates with proficiency in reading, writing and math, and is prepared for success in post-secondary education or training.

I am proud of what we accomplished in Olympia this year to strengthen our schools. But we cannot rest until we've given every child the means to succeed. During the interim, I will meet with parents, students and educators and listen to their feedback on what we can improve during the next Legislative session.

Strengthening our Public Schools

Preparing students for graduation:

Next year, students in the tenth grade will be the first graduating class required to pass the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. We expanded the Learning Assistance Program to help finance summer school, tutoring programs and extra support for high school students to learn basic skills to meet graduation standards. I think the combination of retakes and tutoring will help our students succeed on the test.

A focus on secondary schools:

I am deeply concerned about a dropout rate that is nearing 30 percent for our high schools. I co-sponsored legislation, signed by the Governor, that directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify effective dropout prevention programs from across the country and

start tracking the dropout rate from seventh grade onward. I also sponsored a study that will examine how we can redesign our middle and high schools based on successful models used worldwide.

Readiness to Learn (RTL):

This program is vital to many families in northwest Washington. We all know the importance of education. But when a child is too sick to attend school, getting healthy comes first. RTL provides basic services through community partnerships that help at-risk youth receive health care, housing, food, clothing, transportation and drug-prevention. RTL realizes there is more to education than just textbooks by helping students come to school ready to learn.

Closing the Achievement Gap:

Students from LaVenture and Mt. Baker Middle Schools and Mount Vernon High School testified in Olympia about the success of the Advancement Via Individual Determination program (AVID). Students in AVID receive support to help them reach their full potential. We want to expand programs like AVID to other schools to help close the achievement gap for students of color and non native English speakers.



Stacy Torres (r.) and Carlos Rocha from LaVenture Middle School testified before the House Education Committee in Olympia about their experience in the AVID program.

AVID is a national program that enables students to reach their full potential.

Walk the Talk for Schools

We have all heard the importance of good physical health. When Regence BlueShield of Washington challenged lawmakers in Olympia, and across the nation, to walk for schools I couldn't pass up the opportunity. In the month of February, I walked 212 miles – second only to Rep. John Lovick who lead the nation with 293 miles. I am proud to donate my second place prize of \$2,500 to Mount Vernon High School where I was a teacher, counselor and coach for 27 years.

School safety:

My bill to expand notification laws for sex offenders was signed into law. School officials will now be notified if any employee has been convicted of a sex offense involving an adult as well as a minor.

Family education:

The Governor signed my bill to encourage school districts to develop curriculum that teaches life skills for the world after graduation. High schools will have the opportunity to teach students about relationship building, resolving conflicts and managing money.



Marc Vermeire (l. to r.), Val Curtis, John McMMain, Chris Wolf and Jay Westphalen are teachers from Friday Harbor who were instrumental in passage of legislation to improve Professional Certification requirements for teachers.

Supporting our classroom teachers Professional Certification

I have often said that classroom teachers are my heroes. When Chris Wolf, an 8th grade teacher at Friday Harbor Middle School, talked to me about the difficulties he and other new teachers were having with the requirements of the Professional Certification program, I arranged to meet with them. Their stories were so compelling that I asked them to come to Olympia to testify. They echoed concerns from educators across the state that costly and irrelevant college programs leading to professional

certification are driving many teachers away from the profession they love.

Chris Wolf said the recent bill revising Professional Certification standards "helps streamline the unwieldy process for new teachers to gain their professional certificate and maintain their teaching credential. More importantly, the bill treats teachers coming from other states as respected professionals and helps teachers whose certificates have lapsed regain them without having to enroll in an additional program."

In addition, the Legislature approved a reform to allow the Professional Educators Standards Board to manage certification policy for teachers. It makes sense to designate a board that is made up primarily of teachers and educators to decide these standards.

Full funding for voter approved education initiatives

We established an Education Legacy Trust Account to fully fund I-728 to lower class sizes and I-732 to provide a cost of living increase for teachers. These initiatives make a difference in the classroom and help our teachers stay in the profession that they love.

Higher education

Attracting businesses with good paying jobs relies on our ability to produce a highly skilled workforce. That is why I have worked to increase access for our students to higher education. By 2010, over 20,000 students will seek opportunities to earn a college degree in this state. We responded this year by funding 7,900 new enrollment slots at our colleges and universities over the next two years. We also expanded financial aid to cover families who make 65 percent of the median family income, or about \$43,000 for a family of four.

Locally this means:

- Western Washington University receives 340 new slots
- Bellingham Technical College receives 71 new slots
- Skagit Valley College receives 126 new slots
- Whatcom Community College receives 112 new slots

To strengthen our local institutions, we provided funds for WWU to build a new Academic Instructional Center and for SVC to replace a science building with a modern facility. In addition, a study will be conducted to locate a new 4-year facility to address the needs of Island, Snohomish and Skagit Counties.

- The **Air Ambulance** bill paves the way to make medical airlift service affordable for individuals and families. This will bring peace of mind to those who live on the San Juan Islands or in remote places.
- Tremendous caseload has put a strain on our judicial system. We passed a bill to add another **superior court judge** in Skagit County. This will ensure our justice system continues to function in an orderly manner.
- The natural beauty of our land and waters is a treasure we want to pass on to future generations. Senator Spanel led the fight to create a **Citizens' Oil Spill Advisory Council** to protect our waters and shores. This is an independent and permanent council consisting of citizens and experts that will report directly to the Governor.
- An investment in a new **Life Sciences Development Fund** will promote life saving medical research and agricultural advances. Rep. Morris spearheaded this effort in the House. Our state economy will benefit from the partnership with research universities and biotechnology companies.

